

## Proposed Changes for 2013-14 Hunting and Trapping Seasons

### **Chapter 108, Furbearers**

The proposed changes

- Add six counties to the open area for bobcats (Audubon, Crawford, Dallas, Iowa, Muscatine and Poweshiek).
- Remove the statewide quotas for bobcats and river otters. This allows the season to run concurrently with the other furbearer seasons and allows fur takers more flexibility in the harvest of an animal.
- Remove the 24-hour reporting requirement for bobcat and river otters. Fur harvesters are still required to get a CITES tag by contacting a conservation officer or wildlife biologist within 7 days of harvesting the animal.
- Reduce the bag limit for river otters from 3 to 2 to prevent too many river otters being taken in any one area.

Populations of bobcats and river otters are at a level that will sustain this additional level of harvest and allow Iowa's hunters and trappers additional opportunities and flexibility without negatively impacting these populations.

### **Chapter 106, Resident deer hunting**

The proposed change reduces the resident paid antlerless deer quota by 3,950 licenses in 6 counties the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit (Cass, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page and Pottawattamie) in south west Iowa. The reduction is designed to stabilize deer numbers in these counties. A larger reduction was discussed with the governor's office that might have focus the depredation licenses to areas where they are most needed but this reduction was what was approved for this year. It is where deer harvest and trend surveys showed the reduction was most needed.

### **Chapter 91, Waterfowl Seasons**

The proposed change adjusts the season dates to comply with federal regulations, ensures all seasons open on weekends, and removes the bag limit on light geese during the conservation order season. Light geese include white and blue phase lesser snow geese and Ross' geese.

### **Chapter 52, Wildlife Refuges**

The proposed change removes Three Mile Lake in Union County and Lake Sugema in Van Buren County from the list of waterfowl refuges and adds Union Hills Wildlife management area in Cerro Gordo County to the list. A small portion of the area will become a waterfowl refuge with the goal of improving the number of waterfowl that stay in the area during the fall migration. The majority of the area will remain open to hunting.

### **Chapter 100, Crow and Pigeon**

The proposed changes the pigeon season so that it is open year round. It has been closed for firearm hunting from April 1 to Sept 30. The change will allow dove hunters the opportunity to take pigeons while dove hunting.